

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 280806Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1347

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, OAS

SUBJECT: ROC INTEREST IN OAS OBSERVER STATUS

REF: STATE 056170

1. MOFA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR COMMENTED TO US THAT ROC INTEREST IN OAS OBSERVER STATUS IS STILL IN PRELIMINARY STAGE, AND OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM AND WITH MOFA LATIN AMERICA DIRECTOR SUGGEST THIS IS INDEED THE CASE. IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THESE CONVERSATIONS THAT MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER OR HOW TO PURSUE THEIR INTEREST IN OAS OBSERVER STATUS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION ELICITED BY COUNSELOR CHOU IN WASHINGTON. MOFA OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT KOREA AND/OR JAPAN ARE OAS OBSERVERS, AND WONDER HOW THOSE COUNTRIES QUALIFIED.

2. COMMENT. A. ROC HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH 15 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, WHICH CONSTITUTE ITS LARGEST BLOC OF DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. INTEREST IN OAS OBSERVER STATUS STEMS FROM NATURAL DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AND, IF POSSIBLE, IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH LA COUNTRIES. (MOFA OFFICIALS BELIEVE THERE MAY BE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVE-
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MENT WITH CHILE AND ECUADOR.) THIS INTEREST DOES NOT

SEEM TO HAVE GREAT MOMENTUM BEHIND IT, HOWEVER, AND
IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT INFORMATION ON
QUALIFICATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS (REFTEL) WILL CAUSE
MOFA TO DROP THE IDEA. HOWEVER, IF IT TURNS OUT THAT
KOREA AND/OR JAPAN HAS ACHIEVED OBSERVER STATUS
THROUGH RELATIVELY MODEST CONTRIBUTIONS TO OAS
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MOFA MIGHT PURSUE THE IDEA MORE
VIGOROUSLY.

B. IF GENTLE DISCUSSION DOES NOT PROVE SUCCESSFUL, WE
WOULD RECOMMEND A CANDID APPROACH TO THE ROC
IN WASHINGTON.
MCCONAUGHY

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